



THE COMEBACK:

WHAT TO EXPECT WHEN
WE RETURN TO SCHOOL

THE FIRST TWO WEEKS

The first two weeks of school, in a normal school year, are challenging as we navigate late enrollments, last-minute transitions, scheduling changes and staffing. This is not a normal year.

We have to plan for a multitude of potential outcomes instructionally; we have to plan for potential disruptions in service; we have to track down scarce supplies; we have to prepare our staff to deliver on our promises as an organization in an unfamiliar environment; we have to make certain that students, parents, and staff members, are supported.

In spite of our best intentions, we will make mistakes; we will experience delays. We ask that you be patient with us as we venture to do what we think is right for students – offering them the opportunity to return to the classroom.

Thank you.



WHAT TO EXPECT

Class Sizes

Depending on the number of students who enroll in one of our virtual programs, class sizes in the 2020-21 school year may be smaller than is typical. Please understand that the size of your child's class on the first day of school may not be indicative of the size of the class moving forward.

Technology

Please be patient with us as we do our best to ensure all students have adequate access to technology, as there may be delays in the procurement of equipment.

Routines

Developing positive habits takes time, so please understand that the routines that ultimately become the rhythm of school will not magically appear on the first day.

Transportation

This school year presents challenging circumstances for our bus drivers as well. Please be patient with them as they adjust to a new normal in which routes can change at a moment's notice.

HEALTH & SAFETY

We must ensure our students and staff feel safe in school by adhering to strict health and safety protocols.

School districts across the state were given a roadmap to take schools to a final destination: in-person instruction in the 2020-21 school year. (It's actually called the Return to School Roadmap and you can [read it here](#).)

The plan, created by the COVID-19 Task Force on Education and the Governor's Return to School Advisory Council, lays out, in detail, the requirements and recommendations for the re-opening of Michigan school districts by phase.

Fortunately, our region is in Phase 4 of re-opening which allows for in-person instruction governed by strict health and safety parameters. Here's a quick rundown of general health and safety requirements you and your student can expect when we return to school on August 31.

WHAT TO EXPECT

Frequent Cleaning

Desks, common areas, frequently-touched surfaces, buses, art supplies, etc., will be cleaned multiple times a day.

Universal Mask Wearing

All students, staff and visitors are required to wear masks during the school day unless they cannot medically tolerate one (with note from physician) or while eating.

Social Distancing

Social distancing is not a requirement in Phase 4, but we will encourage it wherever possible. This is a best practice.

Routine Hand-Washing

If you can't wash your hands, use hand sanitizer. Students will also be taught proper techniques.

Plexiglass Shields

You may have to speak a little louder, but plexiglass shields will be common in our schools to act as a barrier for germs we'd rather keep to ourselves.



PARENT RESPONSIBILITIES



In order to make this return to school a success, we need your help.

The logistics of screening 5,000 students every morning before school presents a long list of logistical challenges for the District. This is where you, as a parent, can help. We need you to monitor your student's health everyday before sending them to school to ensure they are not presenting any symptoms of COVID-19 – including a temperature check. *In addition, we ask that parents transports students to school whenever possible.*

This, perhaps more than anything else, can help ensure a successful start to the school year.

WHAT WE EXPECT

Check Overall Health

Check your students for symptoms of COVID-19 (fever above 100.4, sore throat, atypical cough, difficulty breathing). If any of these symptoms are displayed, do not send your student to school.

Daily Screening

The CDC and LCHD do not currently recommend daily screening performed by schools. Parents will be encouraged to use a daily screening tool that will be provided by the District to assist in the monitoring of COVID-19 symptoms.

[Click here for more information on screening.](#)

Pack Masks

Since all students who are medically able are required to wear masks in school, please ensure your student has a mask (preferably more than one) before they leave for school.

Keep Distance

Encourage your student to, whenever possible, refrain from close contact with students and staff in school or after school.

Share Information

Please let us know if your child has been exposed to a positive or probable positive case of COVID-19 or if they have been in close contact with anyone displaying principal symptoms of COVID-19.

IN THE CLASSROOM

The goal of our Return to School plan is to create a classroom environment that is both safe and comfortable for students while adhering to strict guidelines for health and safety

The classroom experience for your child will be different than what they remember. Even so, we will do everything we can to ensure students feel welcome, supported and comfortable throughout their day.

We are moving forward toward opening day with eyes wide open. We know that keeping students, especially younger students, out of close contact is going to be a challenge. We also recognize that keeping our youngest students in masks will also present some difficulties. Because of this, we ask that parents be patient with us as we get accustomed to our new procedures. Over time, the health and safety requirements in the classroom will become routine for students and staff. In the interim, we will all navigate this transition together. *We need your support not only to start school, but to stay in school as long as possible.*



WHAT TO EXPECT

Masks

Masks are required for all students and staff in the classroom.

Seating

Students desks will face forward and be spaced out as much as possible.

Plexiglass Barriers

Face-to-face shared student tables (less than six feet apart) will be fitted with plexiglass shields to serve as barriers.

Ventilation

Classrooms will have open windows for ventilation when possible.

Cleaning

Desks and frequently-touched surfaces will be cleaned before and after school everyday in elementary buildings. At the secondary level, the cleaning will be done after each class period.

Supply Sharing

Sharing of school supplies between students will not be permitted. Supplies used in specials will be cleaned after every use.

TRANSPORTATION

Our buses are an extension of our school buildings, so the same health and safety rules apply.

In order to ensure we can continue to transport our students to and from school every day, we expect all students to comply with the same set of health and safety standards that they have in school.

Because the District covers a huge geographic area (nearly half of Lapeer County), we know transportation is vital to our families. In order to maintain this service, students must follow the rules at bus stops and while riding on the bus.

In addition, in order to lower the number of students on the bus, we encourage parents to transport their students to school whenever possible.

Finally, please understand that students who become sick at school and/or show any symptoms of COVID-19 will not be permitted to ride the bus home.

Bus Garage Contact: 810-667-2433



WHAT TO EXPECT

Cleaning

Buses will be thoroughly cleaned between routes.

Masks

All bus riders are required to wear masks at all times on the bus (medical exception applies) and at bus stops if students cannot socially distance.

Distancing

Riders are encouraged to take the first open seat, and to keep as distant as possible.

Ventilation

Buses will have open windows for ventilation as much as possible.

Hand Sanitizer

Hand sanitizer stations will be installed in the entryway of all buses. Students are required to sanitize their hands before taking their seat.

LUNCH TIME

Our goal is to keep students at a distance, as much as possible, at lunch time

From the outset of our planning for a safe and successful return to school, the logistics of lunch time presented significant complexities.

For starters, it is the only time during the day when students are not required to wear masks (while eating). Second, in order to accommodate lunch for 5,000 students every school day, we must do our jobs quickly and efficiently.

In order to accomplish this, our food service and operations team have worked with our building principals to design lunch room procedures to handle food service as safely and efficiently as possible.

Bear in mind, to the extent possible, we will structure school activities and schedules to maintain cohort groups (same students). This includes adjustments to lunch room procedures.

This is another area that will require time and practice in order to become just another daily routine at school.

Food Service Contact: 810-538-1648



WHAT TO EXPECT

Distancing

Students will be spread out as much as possible at tables and in lines.

Outdoor Eating

Outdoor eating will be encouraged wherever/whenever possible.

Food Service PPE

Food service workers will use barrier protection as well as masks and gloves.

Cohorts

Students will be asked to remain in cohort groups whenever possible.

RECESS

What to Expect: Students are required to wear masks on the playground

Kids will be kids. They are social creatures, space invaders and hands-on in every aspect of life.

Requiring students to wear masks on the playground is a recognition of how students interact at play time, and how little we can do to keep them distanced from each other on the playground.

Because of this, we determined that masking, in accordance with the recommendation in the Roadmap, was the most feasible health and safety measure during recess at our elementary buildings. This was a difficult decision, but one that we believe is necessary to keep our students and staff safe.

It is also important to note that the same medical exceptions for masks apply outdoors as indoors.

Students will be asked to sanitize their hands upon returning to class.



EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Health and Safety Requirements also Apply to Before and After-school Activities

WHAT TO EXPECT

Athletics

The District will follow MHSAA guidance as to the facilitation of athletics as it relates to masks, social distancing and indoor gatherings.

Extracurricular Activities

Indoor gatherings that bring together students from more than one classroom are not permitted during or after school.



QUARANTINE

In the event that a student or staff member tests positive for COVID-19, or is in close contact with someone who has, it is important for you to know how the District will respond.



There are very detailed guidelines laid out in the District's COVID-19 Preparedness and Response Workplace Plan and in the administrative guideline for student procedures. Those documents can be accessed on the District website at LapeerSchools.org under the COVID-19 District Preparedness Plans graphic.

The District will work in close cooperation with the Lapeer County Health Department (LCHD) in an information-sharing partnership that is vital to keeping all students and staff safe.

As always, the District will keep parents informed of positive cases if they arise and will follow the protocol for sharing information with the LCHD. Any student who is in quarantine will still have access to meaningful coursework.

Please understand that the District must be prepared for any scenario up to and including a return to virtual learning in the event changing circumstances warrant it. We will adapt to new realities as we are confronted by them and make that determination with the best interests of our students and staff in mind.

WHAT TO EXPECT

Positive Case

Any student who tests positive will be prohibited from entering any school building until they meet the return criteria establish by the LCHD and laid out in our Response Plan.

Symptoms with Confirmed Exposure

Any student with symptoms of COVID-19 who had recent close contact (48 hours) with a confirmed case or someone in quarantine will be excluded from school until the return criteria are met (14 days).

Symptoms with no Exposure

Any student with COVID-19 symptoms needs to remain off-site until they meet the return criteria.

Isolation Area

If a student displays symptoms in a school building, they will move to an identified isolation area in the school and will be monitored by staff until the student can be returned home.

Foreign Travel

Students or staff who have traveled out of the country are prohibited from returning to school until 14 days have passed since their return to the United States.

CONTACT US

If you have additional questions regarding our return to school, please feel free to e-mail one of our district administrators via the e-mail address below:

CENTRAL OFFICE LEADERSHIP TEAM

- Matthew Wandrie, Superintendent
mwandrie@lapeerschools.org
- Mark Rajter, Assistant Superintendent for Business and Operations
mrajter@lapeerschools.org
- Michelle Bradford, Executive Director of Curriculum & Instruction
mbradford@lapeerschools.org
- Kim Seifferly, Executive Director of Human Resources
kseifferly@lapeerschools.org
- Jennifer Tindall, Director of Special Education and Student Services
jtindall@lapeerschools.org
- Jared Field, Director of Communications
jfield@lapeerschools.org

SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS

- Doug Lindsay, Principal, Lapeer High School
dlindsay@lapeerschools.org
- Shad Spilski, Director of Innovation, CFI Campus
sspilski@lapeerschools.org
- Megan Parks, Associate Principal, Lapeer High School
mparks@lapeerschools.org
- Kevin Wenzel, Associate Principal, Lapeer High School
kwenzel@lapeerschools.org
- Jeff Stanton, Principal, Zemmer 8-9 Campus
jstanton@lapeerschools.org
- Zach Hamilton, Associate Principal, Zemmer 8-9 Campus
zhamilton@lapeerschools.org
- Wyatt Stevens, Principal, Rolland-Warner 6-7 Campus
wstevens@lapeerschools.org
- Rich Cross, Associate Principal, Rolland-Warner 6-7 Campus
rcross@lapeerschools.org
- Bob Downey, Principal, Murphy Elementary
bdowney@lapeerschools.org
- Katie Jordan, Principal, Schickler Elementary
kjordan@lapeerschools.org
- Aneta Lawrence, Principal, Lynch Elementary
alawrence@lapeerschools.org
- Scott Warren, Principal, Turrill Elementary
swarren@lapeerschools.org
- Michon Periso, Lapeer Virtual Partnership
mperiso@lapeerschools.org
- Stefanie Heddy, Director, Kids & Company
sheddy@lapeerschools.org

